

WILLIAM SARAH

Elijah, Million, Judith, Agile, Sussana  
DRAWER 1A KAPPAHANNOCK COLONY

71. 2009, 085. 05568



# Hanks Family

Virginia

William & Sarah Hanks

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

August 4, 1936

Mr. John B. Watkins, Jr.  
Henderson, N. C.

My dear Mr. Watkins:

Your interesting letter is before me and I regret that up to now I have not had time to answer it. First I will answer some of your queries.

The market to which you refer as between South Boston and Halifax County, Courthouse, Virginia, is a marker to Rev. Dresser who married Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd. This is the site of the old Dresser homestead. I recall passing by there last summer.

Mrs. Caroline Hitchcock's story of the parents of Nancy Hanks is to the effect that she is the daughter of Joseph Hanks and Nancy Shipley Hanks but in this she has confused the story of another Nancy Hanks with Lincoln's mother.

Many of the descendants of the Kentucky Hankses have claimed that the father of Nancy Hanks was James Hanks who first married Lucy Shipley Hanks. After his death Lucy Shipley Hanks married Henry Sparrow.

There are one or two minor corrections which I think you would like to make in your story. On the first page you state "in 1817 they moved to Indiana." It should be in 1816. Also, in the same paragraph you state that "Thomas Lincoln married again a few months later, having several more children." He did not have any children by his second wife.

You have made a very interesting compilation and I trust you may get it published.

Very truly yours

LAW:LH

Director

13  
Dr. Louis A. Warren,

Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Dr. Warren,

First, many thanks for your letter and enclosure.

Enclosed is story I have written, which explains itself.

You will notice I have tried to say nothing about the men of Nancy's life, as I see no necessity in this story.

What is the story of "James and Lucy Shipley Hanks" ?

And do you know what is story in "The True Nancy Hanks" by Carolin Hitchcock? Names of parents &c.

Also any other story that could be added to my file?

I do not want to be of trouble to you, but if this is sent out, I want it to be as full and accurate as possible.

Very truly,

John B Watkins Jr.

Henderson, N.C.

Do not return story as I have copy.

*Between South Boston & Halifax N.S. there is a monument, I understand to where Rev Jesse Hurd was raised - a school like that*

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*There is a story at Blackstone Va that Abraham Lincoln gave some furniture to his servant when he bought a new set. That the servant sold this furniture to a lady in Blackstone for 1,000.00 - Write Editor, Blackstone paper if you haven't wish this story.*



## "The Mothers of Abraham Lincoln".

In the "Dionne sisters" we have the unusual, but natural event of five children to one mother, but what shall we call it when the order is reversed, and we have five mothers being claimed for one child?

There are about fifteen hundred biographies of Abraham Lincoln, but with all the writing and research, the question of "Who was Nancy Hanks" is still unsettled.

Records prove that Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married at Springfield, Washington Co. Ky. on June 12th 1806, ~~the~~ Rev. Jesse Head performing ceremony. The marriage bond to get license was filed two days previous, signed by Thomas Lincoln & Richard Berry.

They had three children, Sarah, Abraham born Feb 11th 1809, and a son who died young.

1816 In 1817 they moved to Indiana, where Nancy died the following year of "milk-sick" fever. Thomas Lincoln married again ~~#####~~ a few months later, having ~~several~~ more children by second wife. Two

Here are five stories I have found, perhaps there are more.

Story No. 1. Joseph Hanks and daughter Lucy and others ~~se~~ moved from Va. to Mineral Co. W. Va., 14 miles south of Keyser, where Nancy was born in 1782. Lucy later re-married to Henry Sparrow, having several more children. All moved to Ky. where Nancy married Thos. Lincoln.

The West Virginia Historical Society has put a marker at this place in Mineral County.

Story # 2. Lucy Hanks with her uncle Dick Hanks and others and two children, Mandy and Nancy moved from Va. to near Belmont, Gaston Co. N.C., there being a monument to where Nancy lived at this place.

A few years later they moved to one mile from Bostic, Rutherford

Co.N.C., where being very poor, Mandy worked in home of Mr. Pratt, and ~~Lucy~~<sup>Nancy</sup> was in home of Abraham Ensloe. Ensloe's daughter Nancy married and went to Ky., and Nancy Hanks later went to her home.

The title of this book is "Abraham Lincoln a North Carolinian", so to try to prove that, the writer claims he was born 1805, not 1809, and that Nancy carried him in her arms. <sup>to try</sup>

There is a monument at Bostic, <sup>the</sup> place called "Lincoln Hill".  
Story # 3. In Anderson Co. S.C. is story that when Nancy was 10 or 12, her parents, Matthew and Nancy (Ann) Powell Hanks moved from Va. to ten miles S.E. of Anderson S.C., and Nancy was employed in tavern of Christopher Orr. That she married Thomas Lincoln here, Abraham was born here, and they later moved to Ky.

A monument is at this place too.

Story # 4. Is my claim to Nancy. Court records are that William Hanks from Dinwiddee Co. Va. bought land five miles north of Henderson, N.C. in 1768. This is now Vance County, then was Granville.

This land was left to sons Wm. & Elijah.

The middle son Argil married, June 20 1783, the daughter of what was then and is today, a rich, proud, aristocratic family.

Argil and Frances lived on Virginia border, the State line being northern boundary, 122 acres, 16 miles north of Henderson.

Their log house is home of a fine family today, only many years ago, it was enlarged and all weatherboarded.

In 1796 they moved three miles south to 317 acre farm, which is today called "Hanks Place", a Negro Ed Hanks living there, only the old house has gone.

In 1797 Argil died and division of estate gives to Frances (the widow) & Nancy Hanks (oldest child) 2 Negroes, Red Heifer & calf, Bull Cow, 11 hogs, young bay horse, &c, value 122 L.



Then gives several more Negroes to eight more children.  
So instead of being of a "poor and humble" family, our Hanks were as well off and genteel, and Nancy had as good education &c as any of that time, and as to Nancy's mother's people, here it was, I claim, Abraham got that "unknown ancestry" that gave his great intellect, the strain to which he referred in talking with his law partner, Herndon.

Tradition here is that around 1803, Nancy had a disagreement with her people, which caused her to go with friends to Salisbury N.C., then later going to Ky.

And because of her great family pride, she never would tell about her rich people back home, though she had a very hard life after leaving them.

Story # 5. In 1747 Abraham Hawkes and wife Lucy were granted 284 acres in Amelia Co. Va., in the corner of Amelia, Nottoway, and Dinwiddie counties, and there are records of the Hawkes family down to present time in those counties.

But around 1770, some of these seem to change name to Hanks, Richard, James and Nancy (wife) & c, all owning these same lands, so that the Amelia Clerk of Court states that many investigators have decided that Hanks was first Hawkes, and that all these stories are about descendants of above Abraham & Lucy scattering south and west. And here Abraham Lincoln got his name.

However I have read somewhere that Thomas Lincoln's father was named Abraham, and was a brother-in-law of the celebrated Daniel Boone.

A story, "The True Nancy Hanks" is that Nancy was born in Amelia Co. Va. and went with her father to Ky in 1785.



In writing these stories, I have only given outlines, and have tried not to show any preference.

Every writer states that his is "the only true correct" story, so only thing I see left is to say that Abraham Lincoln was so great a man that it took five mothers to produce him!

Even Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director Lincoln National Life Foundation, states he doesn't yet know, only he has rejected a couple of these I have written, but the strongest tradition is to James and Lucy Shipley Hanks, and that is not positively proven.

January 14, 1937

Mr. John B. Watkins, Jr.  
Henderson, N. C.

My dear Mr. Watkins:

There has just come to me the very interesting little news release which you have prepared for the papers and I think you have done a very interesting piece of work in compiling the different traditions available.

Thank you very much for your acknowledgment of what little help I was able to give you and I hope you will be successful in selling a great many of these stories.

I will be at Asheville, North Carolina, on January 29, Raleigh on February 1 and Charlotte on February 2. I will have speaking engagements in each one of these places. Possibly while at Raleigh I might be able to see you if you are in the State Capitol.

Very truly yours

LAW:LEH

Director

1746 - 1797

Nancy.

Barclay, Frances. m 1713

Copy of acid paper file removed 9/17/2014. Contents attached.



Willbourn      Jewells as will      1794  
and wife Sally      will 1795 - probate

son William Henry not of age

attested by { Susanna Hawks  
                       / Stephen Ellis

Sally ~~beats~~ came to William Henry if not 21

as early as 1795

Franklin County N.C.

Elijah - 1797

Samuel

David

Thomas

John

William

Betsy

Hargraves 1789 North Carolina

Sally

(Broth angle.)

Hanks. Thomas wears Miss Hargraves in Dobb's Gait



Elizabeth 1140-1797

Samuel

David

William

James

Thomas to Henry Smith

John

William

1795

Sarah

Debra

(John Smith)

Copy of acid paper file removed 9/17/2014. Contents attached.

Richmond County

Children of William and Hannah Hanks

Susanna -- Dec. 18, 1725

*Richmond County*

Children of William and Sarah (Durham) Hanks

Elijah - Dec. 17, 1740

Million - Aug. 21, 1742

Judith - Dec. 29, 1744

Argil - Feb. 2, 1746

Susanna - Sept. 19, 1749

Hannah - Feb. 11, 1752



William - 1787

Elijah 1740

Milton 1742

Jacob 1744

Orville 1746

Shannon 1749

Hammond 1752

Dickson, John, 1750

James, 1751

Ann

1752

Harrison, William - 1753

more

Copy of acid paper file removed 9/17/2014. Contents attached.

Pickens County

William - (1704) Sarah Woodbridge  
widow Sarah married Pickens Whit,  
William 1679

Luke

John

See

William in Hester hills





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